



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of
David C. Baulcombe et al.
Serial No. 09/491,549
Filed: January 26, 2000
For: "Gene Silencing"

) Group Art Unit: 1632
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) Examiner: P. Paras, Jr.
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) Response to Paper No.: 6
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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the August 3, 2000 Official Action, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

In the claims:

Sub B² 1. (Amended) A method of [screening for] determining the occurrence of target gene silencing in an organism, which method comprises the steps of:

(i) obtaining a sample of material from said organism,

(ii) producing a nucleic acid extract from said sample,

(iii) [analysing] analyzing said extract such as to determine the presence or absence of short RNA molecules which are approximately 25 nucleotides in length (SRMs) in said nucleic extract, (iv) correlating the presence of said SRMs in the extract with the occurrence of said target gene silencing in said organism.

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